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# CONFERENCE *connection*

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 24, 2019

## 2019 Annual Meeting

### Annual Meeting Begins in One Week!

We are a week away from our Annual Meeting and the planning committee is working hard to make sure everything is ready for you. We are excited about being in Tennessee this year. We are also thrilled to welcome our special guest, **UCC General Minister and President** Rev. John Dorhauer.



*That We May All Be One*

There are a couple of special training offerings before Annual Meeting this year.

The first will be the MID Retreat. This is a great chance for our **Members in Discernment** and those interested in being MIDs to meet one another and prepare together for ministry in the United Church of Christ. If you would like to attend and have not registered, please email Heather at [hfosburgh@secucc.org](mailto:hfosburgh@secucc.org).

The second opportunity for training this year is **Healthy Boundaries Training** taught by Rev. Marsha Brown and Min. Carrole Moss. This training is required every four years for all active Authorized Ministers in the Southeast Conference. This was implemented two years ago and all ministers have to have their first training done by December 31, 2019. There is only one other opportunity this year (in September in Atlanta) so we recommend you attend this one. You can [register here](#).

If you have not registered for Annual Meeting, it is not too late! Just come anyway and register on-site, or you can email Rev. Heather Fosburgh at [hfosburgh@secucc.org](mailto:hfosburgh@secucc.org) to register. For those of you who have already pre-registered, now is the time **to register for Workshops!** We are asking people to pre-register for workshops so we can assign rooms according to popularity. You can read the [workshop descriptions here](#) and [sign up here](#). Also, in the coming days, check our [Annual Meeting website](#) for new documents and reports and for more information about Annual Meeting.

Lastly, this Annual Meeting we are hoping to share with one another about what is happening in our churches and celebrate together the ministry we are all doing. One way we will do this is **each church is invited to bring a centerpiece** for our meal space. The centerpiece can be photos from the church, symbols that represent your church or something else creative. They can be things that you take back with you at the end of the meeting or things that are disposable. We recommend something that is low on the table so conversation can still happen but shows others in the Conference what your church is doing in the world.

There will also be an opportunity in worship to remember, celebrate, and read the names of those **saints who have died** in the past year. Please feel free to bring names from your church for this service.

Hope to see you in Tennessee!

Rev. Heather Fosburgh  
Associate Conference Minister

## News from the Conference Office

### From the Generosity Coordinator

I am so looking forward to seeing all of you representing your churches at our Annual Meeting on May 31-June 2, 2019. Friendly reminder, Healthy Boundary Training is being held on May 30, 2019, beginning at 12 noon and ending at 8:00 pm.

A very special THANK YOU to all of you who have given your time, your talents and your tenth. We are united in Spirit and inspired by God's grace. We welcome all, Love all, and seek justice for all.

"GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF YOU A GIFT FROM GOD'S GREAT VARIETY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS. USE THEM WELL TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER." 1 Peter 4:10

Your gifts to OCWM help the United Church of Christ spread God's love to more people in more places than any one of us can do alone. Please, give generously to your church, and then encourage your church to budget generously for OCWM.

Can't wait to see you ALL at Annual Meeting in Pleasant Hill, TN and in your churches.

Blessings,  
Min. Carrole Moss



### Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2019. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

#### Week of May 20

- Circular Congregational UCC; Charleston, South Carolina
- George Bennett
- Matt Frierdich
- James Norris
- J. Richard Woodward
- Kathi Martin

#### Week of May 27

- First Congregational Christian UCC; Montgomery Alabama
- Clara Benson

- Diane Tugel
- Stephanie Crumpton
- Patricia Shropshire

## Prayers

- Please keep **Dave Spence** in your prayers
- **Thomas Coats**, will be ordained on June 16
- **Rev. Gary Myers**, who is retiring after serving Trinity Congregational Church in Athens, Alabama for 19 years

## Churches in Transition

Central Congregational, Atlanta, GA; United Church of Huntsville, Huntsville AL; First Congregational, Birmingham AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta GA; First Congregational Christian, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL

## News from the Wider Church

### Strengthen the Church Offering is Pentecost Sunday, June 9

Each Pentecost, we celebrate the church as we have known it, the church we are, and the church that we can be, together. We lean on the story of connecting across difference and listen to the languages of hope spoken in the name of God. Our Annual Meeting this year is focusing on ways that we celebrate “May We All Be One.”

One of the ways we celebrate our connections together is through the Strengthen the Church offering, one of the four special UCC offerings. Through this offering, your congregation contributes to the continued expansion and revitalization of the United Church of Christ. 50 percent of your offering stays within the Southeast Conference, and 50 percent is sent to the national work of strengthening the church universal: through grants towards new church starts, inspiring youth and young adults into leadership, and equipping pastors for ministry in the 21st century.

Please join us in common mission, vision, and purpose by taking up the Strengthen the Church offering on June 9, 2019! Resources can be ordered through UCC Resources and found at [www.ucc.org/stc](http://www.ucc.org/stc).





[ucc.org/stc](http://ucc.org/stc)



## Become an Adese Fellow

Have you heard about this groundbreaking, ecumenical program? The Adese Fellowship helps fellows advance a concept or early-stage entrepreneurial venture that will counter systemic poverty. Application Deadline is June 15, 2019. [Learn more and apply today.](#)

## The UCC and the Villa International Experience

by Barbara Baylor

- *"Welcoming the Stranger"*
- *"Peacemaking and Global Understanding"*
- *"Building A Safe Community"*
- *"Compassionate Healing Through the Work of Its Guests"*

These are the founding principles of Villa International Atlanta, Inc., an ecumenical ministry of hospitality that offers affordable, safe, comfortable and convenient short-term housing to international healthcare professionals who come to study and conduct research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and its hospitals.



The United Church of Christ, Southeast Conference is represented by Barbara Baylor (First Congregational Atlanta) and Helen Fredrick (Central Congregational). [Learn more about this ministry on our website.](#)

## News from Our Local Congregations

### Upper Room UCC Fellowship Spring Potluck Supper

A supper gathering of Nashville & Mid-TN UCC churches occurred on Saturday, May 18th at Howard Congregational Church. Over 60 folks enjoyed a performance by the Howard UCC Choir as well as a message from special guest speaker Rev. J.R. Finney. Thanks to Tony England for organizing the gatherings! (More photos can be found on our [Facebook page](#).)



### Fairfield Glade Church supports Morgan Scott Project

Fairfield Glade Community Church sent a team to sort seeds for the day at Morgan Scott Project for the Good Earth Garden program, providing seeds for more than 350 families so they can grow their own fruits and vegetables. Morgan Scott Project is a non-profit serving the needs of the elderly, disabled, and unemployed in Morgan and Scott Counties, Tennessee.



## The Crowns We Wear

The Crowns We Wear: A Renaissance of Style at First Congregational Church UCC, the Altar Guild signature fundraiser for this historic church at 125 Ellis Street, Atlanta 30303, June 9, 3 – 7 p.m. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Attire? Over the top! Contact [Bryantdg1959@gmail.com](mailto:Bryantdg1959@gmail.com) for ticket information.

We love sharing news from our local congregations! Please send us pictures and explanations of special events at your church that we can share on our website, social media, and in this email newsletter. We think it's a great way to share ideas for events, as well as celebrating what other UCC churches are doing!

Email us at [communications@secucc.org](mailto:communications@secucc.org).

## Training and Learning Opportunities

### Boundary Training 101 Scheduled for May 30, 2019

*by Carrole Moss*

Date: May 30, 2019

Place: Pleasant Hill Community UCC

Event: Healthy Boundary Training 101

Time: 12:00 noon until 8:00pm



Did you know that it is now a **REQUIREMENT that all Ordained, Licensed and Commissioned clergy** serving in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ complete this training by December 2019? As of January 1, 2018 it has been mandated that all clergy attend this training and follow up every four years for a refresher course. This course will help you to learn or, refresh you on what your boundaries are, appropriate and inappropriate behavior, not just in the pulpit, but in your everyday life. It helps you with relationships, self care, social media and other issues.

There are stories of misconduct by clergy in the news, on social media, in our conversations, and on our minds, every day. Please **DO NOT** allow your name and your story to become a part of the media circus. Times have changed, people have changed...the conduct that was tolerated 10-20 years ago is no longer acceptable. Please help us to help you by making plans to attend this training. Remember: **Healthy Boundary Training is MANDATORY!!!**

The registration will be open in a few weeks on our website: [secucc.org](http://secucc.org). We urge you to make plans to be there. It is our promise that you will be informed and enlightened. When we know better, we do better!!! Come, let us grow together. I look forward to seeing you there.

## Conference Calendar

### Staff Meeting

May 28 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am EDT  
Online Virtual Meeting

### MID Retreat

May 30 @ 10:00 am - May 31 @ 12:00 pm CDT  
Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN

### Boundary Training

May 30 @ 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm CDT  
Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN

### SEC UCC Annual Meeting

May 31 @ 12:00 pm - June 1 @ 4:00 pm EDT  
Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN

### Ordination of Thomas Coates



June 16 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm CDT  
Safe Harbor Family Church, Clinton, MS

## **UCC General Synod**

June 21 - June 25  
Milwaukee, WI

## Contact Us

Conference Minister: **Rev. Char Burch**; [cburch@secucc.org](mailto:cburch@secucc.org)

Assoc. Conference Minister: **Rev. Heather Fosburgh**; [hbardole@secucc.org](mailto:hbardole@secucc.org)

Generosity Coordinator: **Min. Carrole Moss**; [cmoss@secucc.org](mailto:cmoss@secucc.org)

Director of Communications: **Don Harris**; [dharris@secucc.org](mailto:dharris@secucc.org)

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